

City. Allied leaders, diplomats, international dignitaries and Ambassadors from Italy, France, Belgium and the United Kingdom have been invited to participate in the rededication of this very special monument, which represents the appreciation of those who gave their lives to preserve our freedom, "Less the Ages Forget."

On the base of the Liberty Memorial is an inscription which reads, "In Honor of Those Who Served in the World War in Defense of Liberty and Our Country." The top of the Memorial has four Guardian Spirits: Honor, Sacrifice, Patriotism and Courage. This Memorial Day weekend our prayers should include the brave men and women who serve in defense of Liberty and our Country with honor, sacrifice, patriotism and courage.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commemorating one of our Nation's most cherished reminder of liberty and freedom, the restored World War I Liberty Memorial in Kansas City Missouri.

HONORING ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2002

Mr. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to stand before my colleagues and celebrate Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month. Asian and Pacific Americans have been a part of this country for over 200 years, with one of the first Asian American communities, the Filipino community, being established in the Louisiana Bayou in 1763. Asian and Pacific Americans have quickly established themselves as a strong and thriving community in this country, positively contributing to its industrial, educational and social successes. I am also proud to see the growing number of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans involved in the American political system at the local, state and national levels.

As this community continues to grow, it is important for all of us to continue to learn from each other. In the 9th Congressional District, I am very fortunate to represent a vibrant, productive, and diverse Asian-Pacific American community that totals over 70,000 people. The community is diverse, ranging from Chinese to Indian to Korean to Filipino to Samoan. Each subset of the Asian-Pacific American community has brought a rich culture and strong work ethic to my district. From restaurants to service stations to software companies, the Asian-Pacific American community has provided the services needed to keep the 9th Congressional district an enjoyable, safe and culturally rich place to live.

We recognize and cherish the contributions of the Asian-Pacific American community to our country. The Asian-Pacific American community has come so far in such a short period of time, and I am confident that it will only continue to grow and thrive while maintaining its many cultures and values.

ON WELFARE REFORM AND TANF REAUTHORIZATION LEGISLATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I cannot vote for this bill.

In 1996, Congress passed a largely successful welfare reform bill that gave states much more flexibility to manage their own welfare assistance programs as they saw fit. This approach has significantly reduced the number of people who need welfare and put many impoverished people into jobs that have brought their standard of living above the poverty level.

Still, there is more that needs to be done. The 1996 law has helped move people from welfare to work. But it has not had similar success in helping people escape poverty—and there is no reason anyone should live in poverty in the most prosperous country in the world.

And some important things have changed since 1996—right now, our economy is struggling to recover, many businesses have had to lay people off, and other firms even have had to shut down.

So, as we consider whether to renew or revise the 1996 law, we have both important opportunities and serious challenges. But this Republican Welfare reform bill does not rise to the occasion.

Their bill would penalize—not assist—people who are trying to escape poverty. Their bill takes away the flexibility states have had to develop their own programs. It discriminates against legal immigrants. It doesn't provide enough funding for childcare. It doubles the number of work hours required for mothers with children under the age of six and provides a new "superwaiver" authority to the President to waive almost any Federal requirement in food stamps and housing.

In short, its most important effect would be to make things worse, not better for millions of people—something I cannot support.

And that's not all—the Republican bill would make it harder for the States as well. It has been estimated that this bill dictates up to \$11 billion in unfunded mandates. In fact, I have seen estimates that my own state of Colorado might have to pony up an extra \$84 million to pay for Federal mandates.

I very much regret that the Republican leadership has insisted on depriving the House of the opportunity to pass a better bill. The substitute offered by the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. Cardin, contained many provisions focused on moving welfare recipients into real, wage-paying jobs. It would have provided the states with the discretion to determine the best mix of activities needed to move recipients toward self-sufficiency. It would have restored the option of states to provide assistance to legal immigrant families with Federal Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) funds and eliminated the current ban on providing Medicaid to legal immigrant pregnant women and children. It would have provided an additional \$11 billion for mandatory child care funding over the next five years and would have increased access to education and training for welfare recipients.

And, that substitute did not include the new "superwaiver" authority that the Republican

bill gives to the President—a nearly unbounded authority that I think is excessive.

Mr. Speaker, I had hoped it would be possible for me to support balanced, bipartisan legislation to build on and broaden the success of the 1996 welfare reform law. In particular, I had hoped that the House would have the Opportunity to shape a new law that would do more than just get people off welfare roles, but instead would make it more likely that we could achieve the goal of ending poverty. Unfortunately, this bill does not come near to that, and I cannot support it.

CITIZEN SERVICE ACT OF 2002

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2002

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Citizen Service Act of 2002 to reauthorize programs under the Corporation for National and Community Service. I would like to thank the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Select Education, Mr. ROEMER, for working with me to put together a bipartisan bill to reauthorize and reform the national service laws.

On April 9, 2002, President Bush unveiled his "Principles and Reforms for a Citizen Service Act" to guide the reauthorization of the Corporation for National and Community Service and its programs, which include AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve America. Since then, the Subcommittee on Select Education has worked in a bipartisan manner with the Administration to craft legislation to reform and enhance national service.

The major federally funded community service and volunteer programs in this country are authorized under two statutes: the National and Community Service Act and the Domestic Volunteer Service Act. The bill I am introducing today provides reforms and improvements to these national service laws. The improvements in the Citizen Service Act of 2002 will allow organizations and volunteers assisted under these acts to maximize their efforts and will greatly benefit those assisted through volunteer efforts.

The Citizen Service Act of 2002 focuses on four major objectives for reauthorization. This legislation will: (1) support and encourage greater engagement of citizens in volunteering; (2) make federal funds more responsive to State and local needs; (3) make federal support more accountable and effective; and (4) provide greater assistance to community-based organizations (which include religious organizations). This legislation also addresses several specific issues that will help to improve national service provisions found in current law.

Prohibition on Grants to Federal Agencies—Prohibits the Corporation from making grants to Federal agencies.

Literacy Programs—Requires literacy programs to be based on scientifically based reading research and ensures that programs provide instruction based on the essential components of reading instruction as defined in P.L. 107-110, the No Child Left Behind Act.

Funding Allocations—Allocates funding for AmeriCorps programs as follows: up to 20